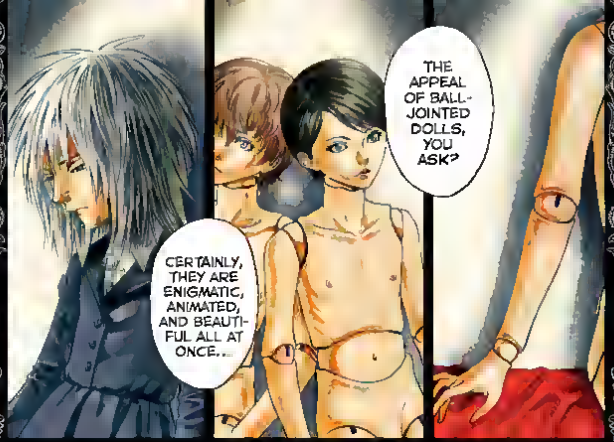


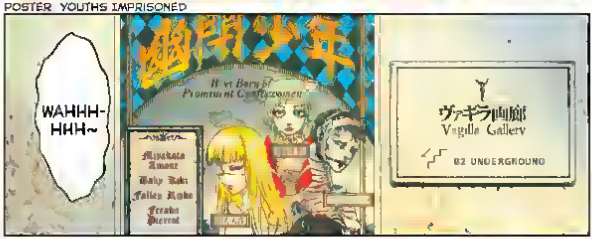
TO ME THEY ARE GENUINE LIVING, BREATHING CHILDREN.
HOWEVER, IF YOU WISH TO KNOW MY PERSONAL OPINION, I DON'T VIEW THESE BOYS AS DOLLS TO BEGIN WITH.

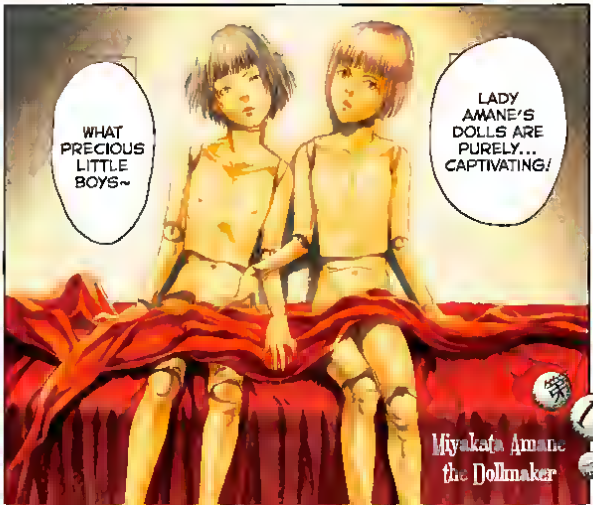
The wicked genius Furuya Usamaru unveils his Morning Two debut!!

The wonderful and miraculous tale of the unprecedentedly interwoven lives of a somewhat bitter doll maker and seven youths.

Amane Kimunashiumu, created by Usamaru Furuya (author of Short Cuts, Palepoli, Lychee Light Club, Tenshi no Kuni, and Yokohama Kaidashi Kikou) and Yoshitaka Amano (the Sandman, Vampire Hunter D, Final Fantasy)

POSTER YOUTHS IMPRISONED



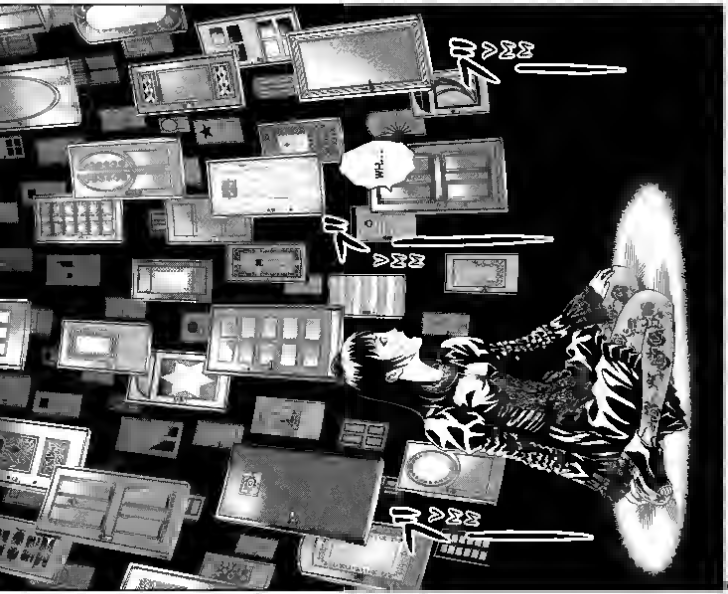


THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.
Miyakata Amane

PLEASE LET ME SEE YOUR DOLLS UP CLOSE~
I ADMIRE YOU SO~ MUCH!
GOOD-NESS, YOU'RE SO CAPTIVATING YOURSELF, LADY AMANE.
I SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT EXHI-BITION!!

PLEASE LOOK FORWARD TO MY WORK.
I'LL TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ANNOUNCE MY PARTICI-PATION FOR THE DOLL EXHIBIT IN THREE MONTHS
grin

A SPRINGTIME LIVE-ACTION SILVER SCREEN SPECTACLE "TEIICHI NO KUNI" WITH SUDA MASAKI LEADING THE CAST HITS THEATRES APRIL 29
ALL 14 VOLUMES OF THE POPULAR MANGA SERIES ON SALE NOW!!! (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY SHUEISHA)



FURUYA USAMARU'S CONTROVERSIAL MANGA PACKED WITH DEVIOUS AND METICULOUS CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY
"I WANT TO BE KILLED BY A HIGHSCHOOL GIRL." ON SALE NOW. (ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY SHINCHOSHA)

A DESPERATE, EXTRAORDINARY COMING-OF-AGE STRUGGLE TO FIND SOMETHING TRULY ORDINARY.
"WHERE THE BOYS ARE" BY FURUYA USAMARU IS CURRENTLY ENJOYING GREAT ACCLAIM IN ITS SERIALIZATION
(CURRENTLY RUNNING IN SHINCHOSHA'S GOGO BUNCH)

HWAH!

8

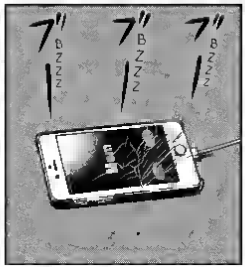
BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

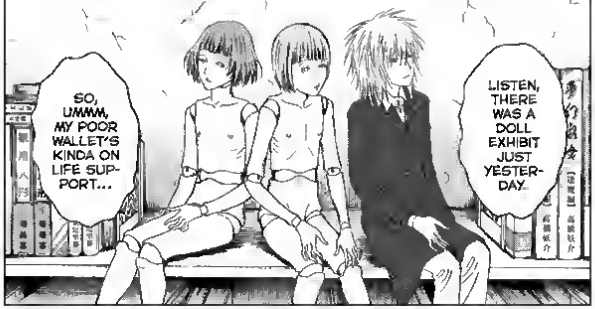
ALWAYS THE SAME NIGHTMARE..
NOT AGAIN...

WHY ARE YOU CALLING ME SO BLOODY EARLY?
YEAH, MOM, WHAT IS IT?
Happy birthday, Amane.


BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ

UGH, YOU WAKE ME UP FOR THAT CRAP!?
Also, I thought I'd remind you that rent is overdue.
I'M YOUR DAUGHTER, CUT ME SOME SLACK!!

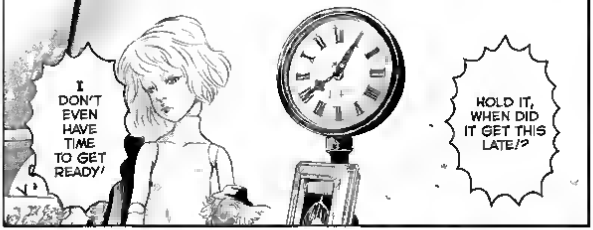
RIGHT... TODAY'S MAY 9TH I GUESS..
SADLY, 27 ISN'T EXACTLY AN AGE WORTH CELEBRATING


LISTEN, THERE WAS A DOLL EXHIBIT JUST YESTER-DAY.
SO, UMMM, MY POOR WALLET'S KINDA ON LIFE SUP-PORT...

Dolls... dolls. dolls... Listen, young lady! You are 27 years old now. Let's be realistic here! It's about time you started acting responsibly!
OH BOY, HERE WE GO...

10

Please for your own sake, yank yourself out of the gutter. Put yourself out there and find a man! Don't waste any time to get married, and
beep
GUH~


I DON'T EVEN HAVE TIME TO GET READY!
HOLD IT, WHEN DID IT GET THIS LATE!?

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO GO WITH A HINOMARU BENTO
DAMN, NOTHING HERE TO QUICKLY SNACK ON.
タン タン タン タン

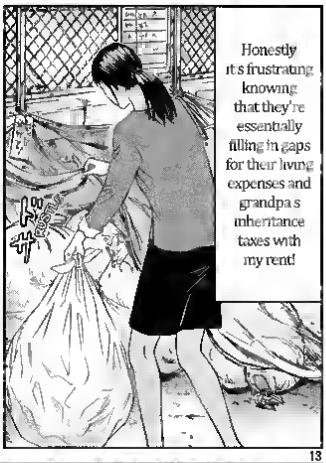
MORNING TO YOU, TOO
AH, GRANNY YASUI!
GOOD MORNING, AMANE
ガラ

Since grandpa passed away my parents have the gall to charge 70,000 yen each month as rent to live here
All the way out in Monzen-Nakacho is this dilapidated little house that once belonged to my grandfather
MAKE SURE TO FEED YOUR SELF
DEAR, YOU'RE THIN AS STRING
I'M PERFECTLY HEALTHY, GRANDMA.
'KAY... I'M HEADING OUT.

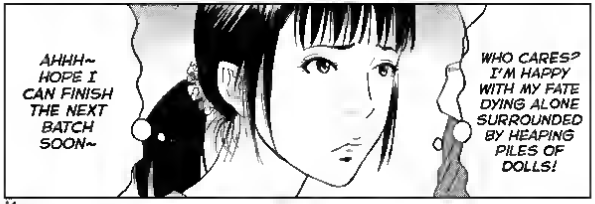
Isn't 70,000 yen a ridiculous amount to charge? For their daughter, nonetheless!?

Considering this place was built around 80 years ago and doesn't even have a bath.

SIGN: TOMIOKA HACHIMAN SHRINE


Honestly it's frustrating knowing that they're essentially filling in gaps for their living expenses and grandpa's inheritance taxes with my rent!

NOT ONLY DO I HAVE MY AGE HOLDING ME DOWN, BUT I'VE GOT ABSOLUTELY ZERO RELATIONSHIP EXPERIENCE.
SICK AND TIRED OF MOM ALWAYS BRINGING UP MARRIAGE


AHHH~ HOPE I CAN FINISH THE NEXT BATCH SOON~
WHO CARES? I'M HAPPY WITH MY FATE DYING ALONE SURROUNDED BY HEAPING PILES OF DOLLS!

I SIMPLY CANNOT WAIT FOR THE NEXT EXHIBITION~
JUST HEARING THOSE WORDS COMPELS ME TO BREAK THE BANK!
NOT MY FAULT DOLL-MAKING IS SO EXPENSIVE...

ONCE WORK IS OVER I CAN FINALLY BURY MYSELF IN DOLL CULTURE...
Ginza! Ginza Station!

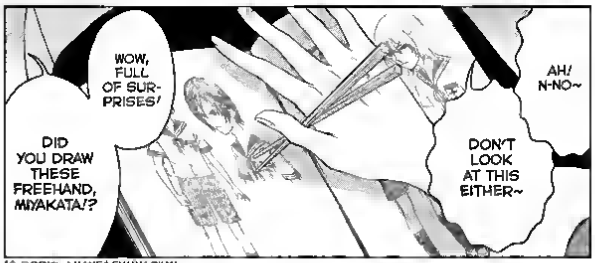
Nothing more than a mundane agency temp?
Behold the unfortunate everyday appearance of a beloved dollmaker

EXCUSE ME, MIYAKATA, BUT COULD I BOTHER YOU ORGANIZE THESE TEN DOCUMENTS INTO A UNIFORM REPORT?
UHH, SURE.
ARE YOU FEELING OKAY?
HUH?
WELL, I JUST NOTICED YOU SEEMED EXHAUSTED
Sasai Ryousuke

HA HA HA
OH, I DIDN'T MEAN...
BETTER OFF NOT LOOKING AT ME.
SADLY, I'M ALWAYS HORRIBLY TIRED.

WHATCHA GOT THERE, MIYAKATA?

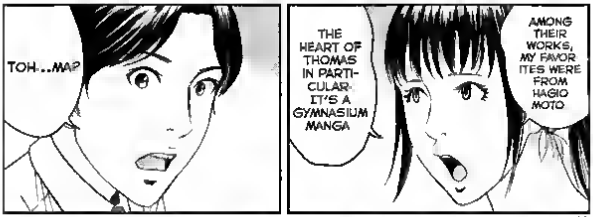
NAH, NOT YOUR LUNCH.
I MEANT THE NOTEBOOK.
AND ALL I HAD WAS PICKLED PLUMS ..
UH, WELL....
THERE WASN'T MUCH TIME THIS MOR NING...


WOW, FULL OF SUR-PRISES!
DID YOU DRAW THESE FREEHAND, MIYAKATA!?
AH! N-NO~
DON'T LOOK AT THIS EITHER~

NOTE BOOK
Specially Presented to Tokyo
アマネ†ギムナジウム
by AMANE・M
OH MY GOD~ HOW AWKARD!
U-UM, YEAH, THEY'RE FROM MY MIDDLE SCHOOL DAYS ..

AMANE GYMNASIUM...?

UH, N-NOT REALLY
PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER THE FABULOUS YEAR 24 GROUP? HAGIO MOTO OR TAKEMIYA KEIKO FOR EXAMPLE?
I GOT THE NAME FROM GYMNASIUM SHOUJO MANGA SERIES FROM BACK IN THE 70S UNLIKE NOW SHOUJO MANGA WASN'T VERY WIDE SPREAD


TOH...MAP
THE HEART OF THOMAS IN PARTI-CULAR- IT'S A GYMNASIUM MANGA
AMONG THEIR WORKS, MY FAVORITES WERE FROM HAGIO MOTO

JULI, THOMAS, ERIC, OSCAR, ANTE.. THEY WERE ALL SO WRAPPED UP IN FINDING LOVE!!
THE TERM GYMNASIUM COMES FROM THE SETTING. HEART OF THOMAS TAKES PLACE IN A BOARDING SCHOOL IN GERMANY FOR EXAMPLE
MOST OF THE CHARACTERS WERE YOUNG BOYS AROUND THE AGE OF 10. THE PLOT REVOLVES AROUND THEIR INDIVIDUAL FRIENDSHIPS ROMANCES, AND STRUGGLES. HAGIO'S ARTWORK WAS DELICATE LIKE FINE SILK. FRANKLY IT WAS A MASTERPIECE.

DURING MIDDLE SCHOOL, I CAME ACROSS THE SERIES IN AN OLD BOOKSHOP.
EVENTUALLY, AFTER GETTING HOOKED, I COULDN'T HELP BUT WANT TO CREATE MY OWN GYMNASIUM.

A GYMNASIUM JUST FOR MYSELF...
アマネ†ギムナジウム
by AMANE・M
THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY OF AMANE†GYMNASIUM.

WOW, MIYAKATA...
YOU'RE INTERESTING AFTER ALL!
GASP

WELL, I'VE GOTTA PREP FOR THE AFTER NOON MEETING AT ONE
SORRY TO BOLT ON YOU.
CAN'T WAIT TO TALK AGAIN!
OH.. YEAH.

THIS IS BAD! I TOTALLY LET MY GUARD DOWN!!
SHIT...

ANYONE WOULD BE PUT OFF HAVING TO SUFFER THROUGH LISTENING TO ME BABBLE ABOUT MY OLD MEMORIES AND FAVORITE THINGS LIKE SOME DISGUSTING OTAKU!!
WAIT, THAT GUY WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN ?
THROUGHOUT ALL MY TIME HERE, I'VE NEVER BOTHERED SPEAKING TO MY COWORKERS UNLESS TRULY NECESSARY YET I START FEVERISHLY BLITHERING ON AND ON ABOUT HAGIO MOTO OUT OF THE BLUE!?
TALKING MY MOUTH OFF LIKE THAT!!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO ME!?
GOBBLE
NOW I'M MORE EMBARRASSED THAN EVER~

USING THIS COMPUTER'S KILLING MY EYES
DIGITAL DISPLAYS SUCK~
WHEW... WORK'S FINALLY TOAST

FEEL LIKE COMING OUT TONIGHT FOR DRINKS WITH ALL OF US?
HEY, MIYA-KATA!

CHIKT
SORRY, I'M JUST GONNA HEAD HOME
NO THANKS, GONNA HAVE TO PASS
DOLL CLAY DOESN'T BUY ITSELF, AFTER ALL.

BEAUTY IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER, HUH?
HUH?
SASAI, DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE GOT A THING FOR HER?
FIGURES SHE'S A TOTAL WEIRDO

THERE'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HER, THOUGH...
NAH...

PLUS I HATE WASTING TIME WITH OTHER PEOPLE!
NOT MUCH TIME UNTIL THE NEXT EXHIBIT, ANYWAY.
EXACTLY WHY I DON'T HAVE A BOYFRIEND!
IF ONLY MOM GOT THAT
WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE!
BET THEY'RE ALL LAUGHING ABOUT THE UGLY AGENCY TEMP.
GO AHEAD AND CALL ME NAMES, I'M USED TO IT.

SIGN: NIHONBASHI DOLL TOWN

SIGNS RIGHT LEFT TOP-BOTTOM.

CLEARANCE SALE

NICONICO ART SUPPLY SHOP

THANKS FOR 45 YEARS OF PATRONAGE (MANAGER)

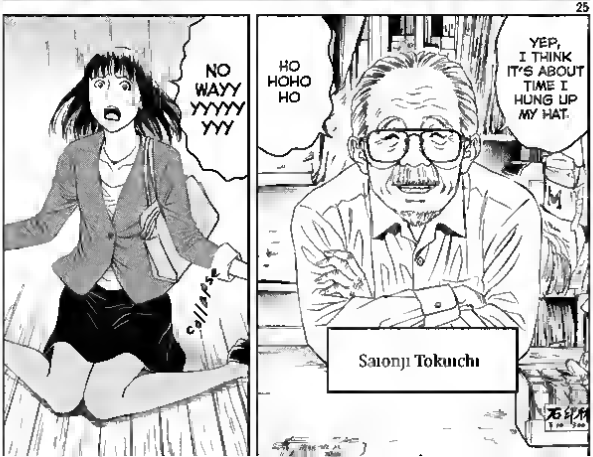
GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

REMBRANT, FABER-CASTELL, KUSAKABE, MATSUDA, ALL HALF PRICE

ANYTHING IN THIS BIN 10 YEN

TOKU, YOU'RE RETIRING!?
H-HOLD ON!
SLIDE
カラ

COME IN, AMANE.
OHO...

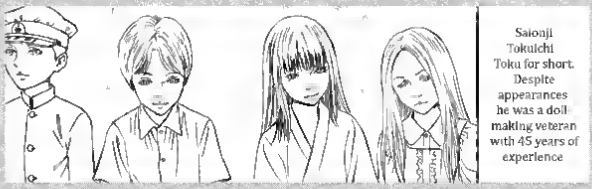

NO WAYY YYYYY YYY
...SLUMP
HO HOHO HO
YEP, I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I HUNG UP MY HAT.
Saionji Tokuichi

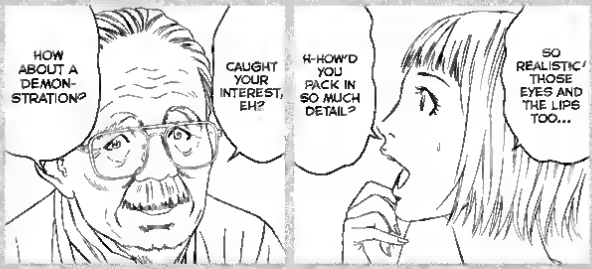
By sheer coincidence, I stumbled across this art shop
On a whim, while studying for university entrance exams, I decided to leave Tokyo for a mental break.
TONS OF MAKE-UP I'VE NEVER HEARD OF...

What truly caught my eye were the dolls sitting atop the shelf

HOHOHO
PROUD TO SAY THEY'RE ALL MY WORK
CAN YOU TELL ME WHO MADE THE DOLLS UP THERE?
HEY, SHOP-KEEP

YOU SERIOUSLY MADE THOSE YOURSELF!?
WHAAAA!? NO WAY!!


Saionji Tokuichi Toku for short. Despite appearances he was a doll making veteran with 45 years of experience

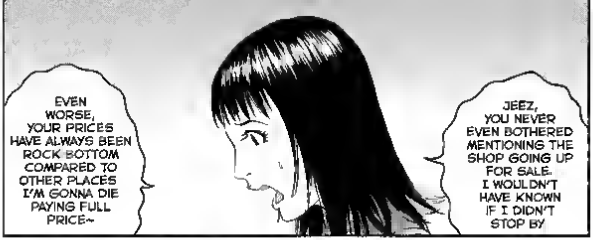

HOW ABOUT A DEMON-STRATION?
CAUGHT YOUR INTEREST, EH?
H-HOW'D YOU PACK IN SO MUCH DETAIL?
SO REALISTIC! THOSE EYES AND THE LIPS TOO...

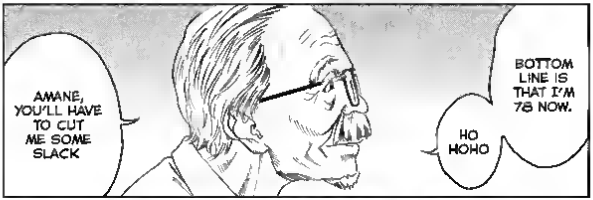
Thinking back, my destined encounter with doll culture happened right then and there
ABSO-LUTELY!!

With Toku at my side he taught me the ropes of dollmaking technique.

I ALREADY FEEL LONELY!!
AWWW~ THE WORST PART IS I PRETTY MUCH WON'T SEE YOU AGAIN, TOKU~

GONNA HAVE TO DECLINE
THEN YOU CAN SEE ME WHENEVER YOU LIKE
DON'T YOU WORRY, AMANE LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME AND GET HITCHED


EVEN WORSE, YOUR PRICES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ROCK BOTTOM COMPARED TO OTHER PLACES I'M GONNA DIE PAYING FULL PRICE~
JEEZ, YOU NEVER EVEN BOTHERED MENTIONING THE SHOP GOING UP FOR SALE. I WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN IF I DIDN'T STOP BY

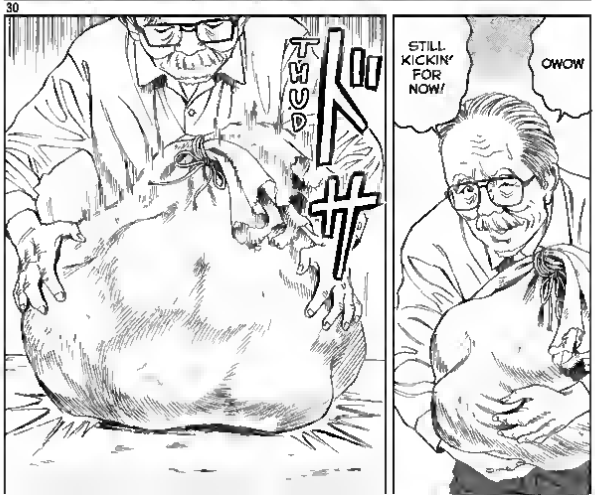

AMANE, YOU'LL HAVE TO CUT ME SOME SLACK
HO HOHO
BOTTOM LINE IS THAT I'M 78 NOW.

FIGURED I'D SETTLE IN WITH MY ELDEST SON FOR NOW
SO WHAT WILL YOU DO AFTER YOU RETIRE?

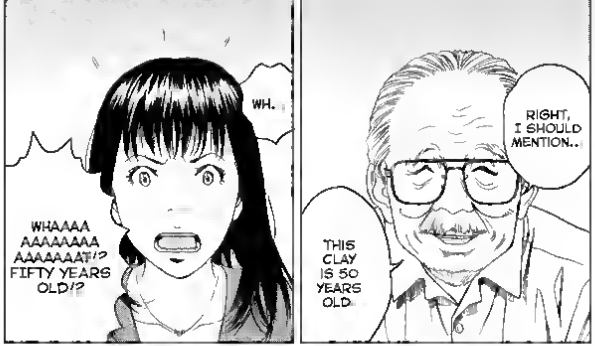
WAIT THERE A MINUTE.
AH, YES.

GUESS IT'S FOR THE BEST..
POOR TOKU'S BEEN ALL BY HIMSELF SINCE HIS WIFE TERU PASSED AWAY TWO YEARS AGO.

TOKU, YOU OKAY!?
HUH?
RATTLE ガタガタ
SHAKE ドンドン
THUMP


THUD ドサ
STILL KICKIN' FOR NOW!
OWOW

LET'S CALL IT A RAINY DAY PROJECT I NEVER GOT AROUND TO START-ING...
WHAT'S WITH THE SACK?
AVERAGING ABOUT 60-70 CM IN HEIGHT, LESSAY... SHOULD BE JUST ENOUGH FOR SEVEN DOLLS.
EACH OF THESE SEVEN LITTLE POUCHES IS PACKED FULL OF DOLL CLAY.
I'LL HAPPILY ACCEPT!!
OF COURSE I WANT IT!
ALL YOURS, IF YOU'LL TAKE IT OFF MY HANDS
31
JACKPOT!!
I'M SO EXCITED· NOW I CAN ACTUALLY SUBMIT A SEVEN DOLL COLLECTION!!
OH MY GOD, PERFECT TIMING! I WAS JUST STRESSING OUT ABOUT NEEDING CLAY FOR THE EXHIBITION THREE MONTHS FROM NOW!


WH.
WHAAAA AAAAAAAA AAAAAAAT!? FIFTY YEARS OLD!?
RIGHT, I SHOULD MENTION..
THIS CLAY IS 50 YEARS OLD

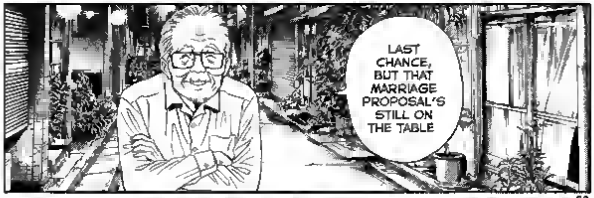
PERHAPS YOU AND THIS CLAY WERE TRULY MEANT FOR ONE ANOTHER
TRUTHFULLY, I'D HAVE TO VALUE THIS CLAY AS MUCH TOO HIGH-QUALITY FOR THESE OLD HANDS

I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER!!
ALL THIS IS TOTALLY GOING WAY OVER MY HEAD, BUT I REFUSE TO TURN DOWN SUCH A MIRACULOUS OPPORTUNITY!
UMM...

THE SECRET?
AS YOU WISH
NOW, ALLOW ME TO PASS ON THE SECRET OF THIS AGED CLAY

画材 ニコニコ堂
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.
TAKE CARE, THEN.
HERE, TOKU THAT'S MY PHONE NUMBER
KEEP IN TOUCH AFTER YOU MOVE!
画材

SERI-OUSLY, TOKU, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HELP


LAST CHANCE, BUT THAT MARRIAGE PROPOSAL'S STILL ON THE TABLE

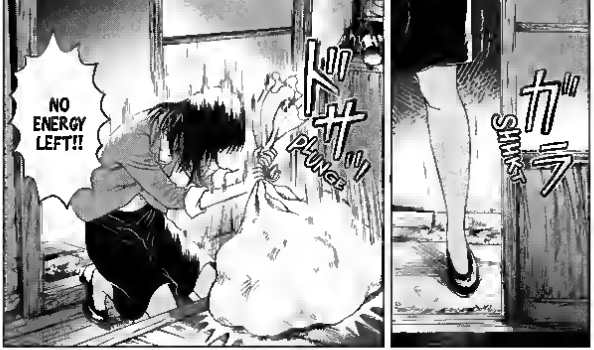
GOODBYE, TOKU.
NICE TRY, BUT NO DICE

SHOULD'VE ARRANGED FOR HOME DELIVERY
SCRATCH THAT, I'M BROKE AS IT IS!
TRUDGE
TRUDGE
LESSEE, IF EACH BAG'S ABOUT 4 KILOGRAMS, THAT MEANS I'M HAULING 28 KILOGRAMS HOME...
TOO DAMN HEAVY~

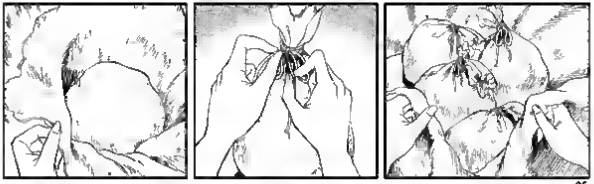
OH TO HELL WITH IT, THIS BURDEN IS SHEER TORTURE!!
PEACEFUL THOUGHTS! WARM AND FUZZY FANTASIES OF PUTTING THIS 50 YEAR OLD CLAY TO USE...
HUFF
GNH
HNNH
HNGH

GREAT! THERE'S A DISTINCT ZONE CLEARED AROUND ME~
ガタン
GATAN
PEOPLE, I SWEAR IT'S NOT EXPLOSIVES OR BODY PARTS~

HANG IN THERE, AMANE-
FIVE METERS TO GO-
GUHH
AHH
HNGH

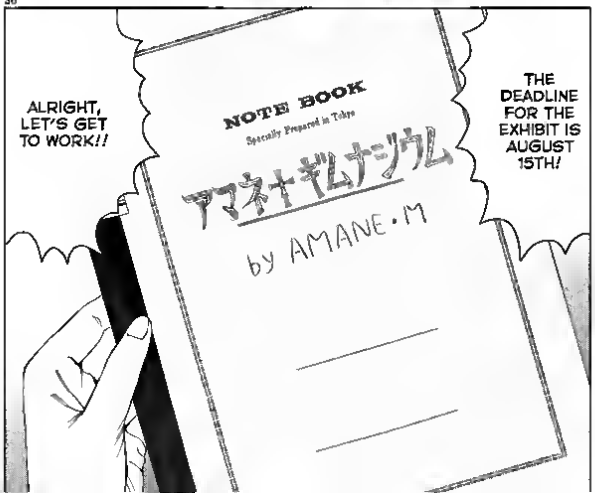

NO ENERGY LEFT!!
ドサッ
PLUNGE
ガラ
SLIDES

GENERALLY, I'VE GOT HORRIBLY ROTTEN LUCK IN LIFE. JUST THIS ONCE... GODS, BE GRACEFUL!!
MY ODYSSEY OF SUFFERING... BETTER PAY OFF!



WHAT THE...
SMOOTH, AS IF I'M RUNNING MY FINGERS ALONG SILK...
NOT EVEN A SINGLE HARD CLUMP TO FIND!!

OHHHH~ YOU WERE WORTH THE AGONY, SWEET CLAY~
THIS IS A TRUE DIVINE BLESSING!
Squish
Squish
ALL THIS CLAY'S WORTH AT LEAST 40,000 YEN!!
LOVE YOU, TOKU!!

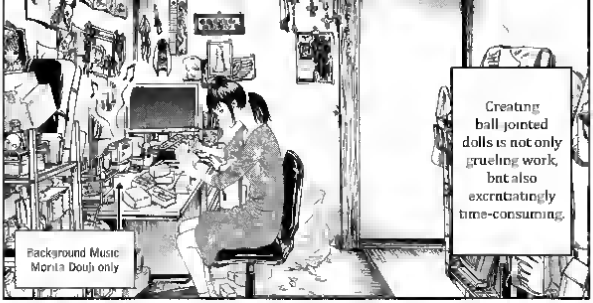

THE DEADLINE FOR THE EXHIBIT IS AUGUST 15TH!
ALRIGHT, LET'S GET TO WORK!!
NOTE BOOK
Specially Prepared in Tokyo
アマネナギムナシウム
by AMANE.M

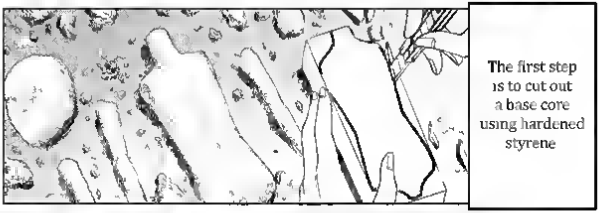
Without question, my theme for the exhibition will be the Gymnasium setting.
Concept-wise, I'm finally going to make use of the seven students I sketched back in middle school

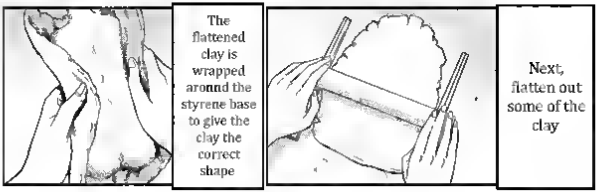
Around the time I turned 22, I came across my old notebook.
I wasted no time at all redirecting my life's path towards doll-making
Upon dramatically failing all of my university entrance exams...
Knead the clay to work out air pockets (manual labor)

I've made it this far with that goal in mind
Looking through it, I vowed that if I ever became especially adept at dollmaking, I'd bring those boys to life

The next exhibition is a special occasion- perfect for their debut.


Creating ball-jointed dolls is not only grueling work, but also excruciatingly time-consuming.
Background Music: Morita Douji only


The first step is to cut out a base core using hardened styrene


The flattened clay is wrapped around the styrene base to give the clay the correct shape
Next, flatten out some of the clay

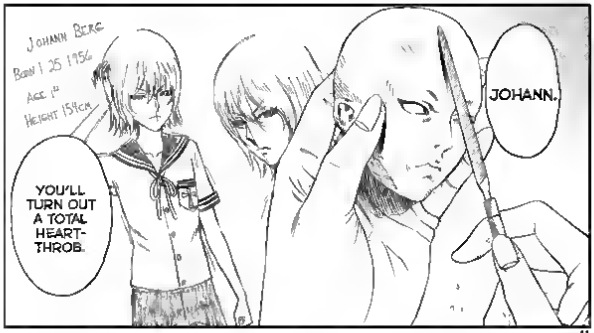
Scrape and shape
Scrape and shape
Keep repeating the process and fine-tuning the details until satisfied
The detailing starts like this.

By combining the appropriate usage of metal files and paper files, the curvature and finer body structure start to show definition

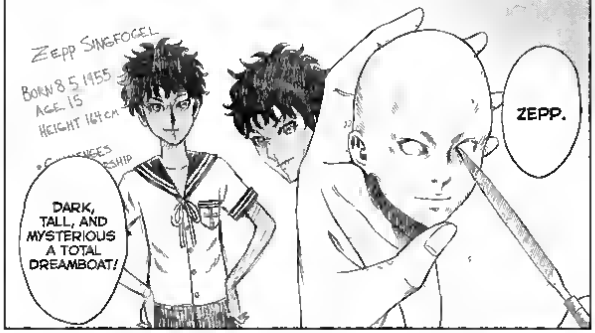
Next is sanding down the clay

In conclusion dollmaking is a physically demanding, fastidious, and frustrating form of art

FELIX SCHULZ
BORN 11/1955
AGE 15
HEIGHT 155CM
•THE CLASS LEADER
SUCH AN EARNEST, PURE BOY.
FELIX.

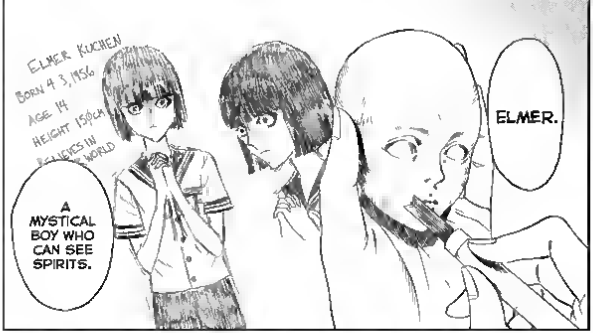

JOHANN BERG
BORN 1/25/1956
AGE 14
HEIGHT 154CM
YOU'LL TURN OUT A TOTAL HEART-THROB.
JOHANN.

THEO APFEL
BORN 7/30/1956
AGE 14
HEIGHT 149CM
• FELIX'S BEST FRIEND
I PROMISE I'LL SCULPT YOU AS CUTE AS A PUPPY-DOG
THEO.

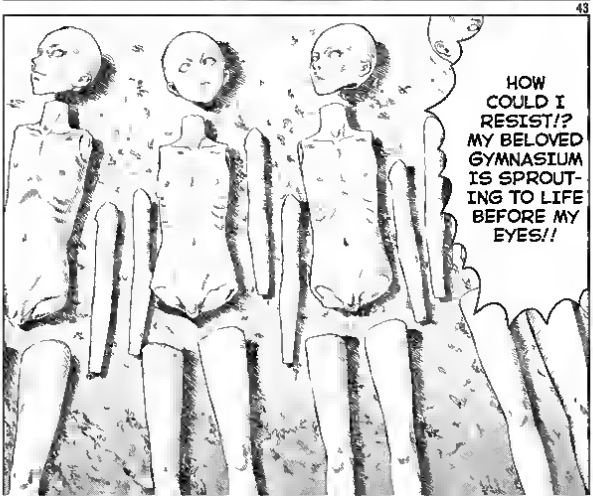

ZEPP SINGFOGEL
BORN 8.5.1955
AGE 15
HEIGHT 164cm
DARK, TALL, AND MYSTERIOUS A TOTAL DREAMBOAT!
ZEPP.

DAMIAN BESENMANN
BORN 2.19.1956
AGE 14
HEIGHT 154cm
EVEN THOUGH YOU PICK ON THE OTHER BOYS, DEEP DOWN THERE'S A HEART OF GOLD
DAMIAN.

OTTO GUTTENSOHN
BORN 11.27.1955
AGE 14
HEIGHT 153cm
OPTIMISTIC, FULL OF AMBITION, WISDOM, AND CURIOSITY.
STAY CALM, NOW, I'LL CREATE YOUR GLASSES WITH CARE.
OTTO.


ELMER KUCHEN
BORN 4.3.1956
AGE: 14
HEIGHT 150CM
ELMER.
A MYSTICAL BOY WHO CAN SEE SPIRITS.

SHIT, I STARTED LAUGHING LIKE A MAD SCIENTIST FROM HAVING TOO MUCH FUN.
WAHA HAHA
HEHE HE...


HOW COULD I RESIST!? MY BELOVED GYMNASIUM IS SPROUTING TO LIFE BEFORE MY EYES!!

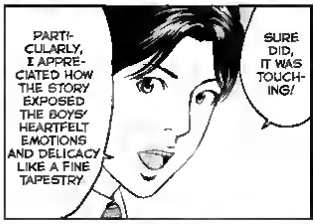
WORK KEEPS DRAGGING ON...
UUU. USH...
5月 15
NO WAY!
MIYAKATA, GOT TIME FOR DRIN
5月 16
5月 17
5月 18
GREAT, I'M GETTING A COLD...
KOFF! KOFF! KOFF!
5月 19
女
I'LL BE OUT BEFORE THEN.
TWENTY MINUTES TO CLOSING TIME.
5月 20
GUESS I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO VISIT A CLINIC.
COUGH HACK
MAAA~N, I WANT A BATH OF MY OWN.

...
TELL ME, HAVE YOU BEEN EXPOSED TO CHEMICAL FUMES?
HERE YOU CAN SEE YOUR LUNGS LOOK PALE AND UNHEALTHY.

5月
25
KOFF
SCRATCH
SCRAPE
PUTTING UP WITH CHEST COMPLICATIONS IS JUST A SACRIFICE ALL DOLLMAKERS HAVE TO MAKE SOONER OR LATER!!
5月
30
5月
31

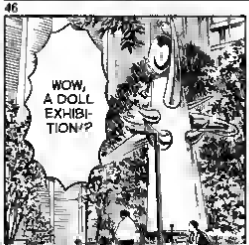
H-HELLO...
AH!
MIYA-KATA, HEY THERE.

HUH?
TALK ABOUT A STELLAR MANGA!
SO I WOUND UP READING THE HEART OF THOMAS.

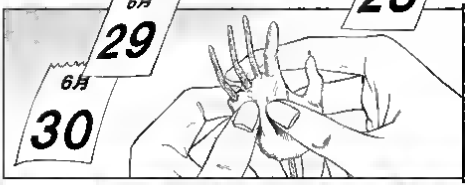

PARTICULARLY, I APPRECIATED HOW THE STORY EXPOSED THE BOYS' HEARTFELT EMOTIONS AND DELICACY LIKE A FINE TAPESTRY
SURE DID, IT WAS TOUCHING!

OH.. WAIT, YOU ACTUALLY ENJOYED IT!?

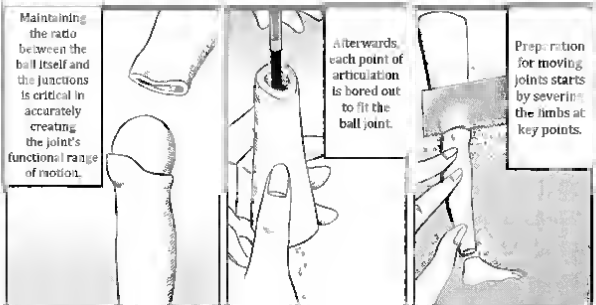
GEH-
HOLD ON A SEC...
WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND?

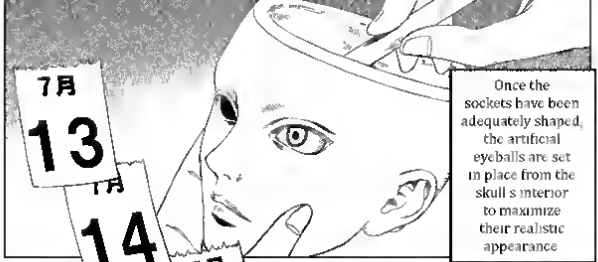

WOW, A DOLL EXHIBITION!?

IT'S... UMMM...
HMMM.. HOW DO I..



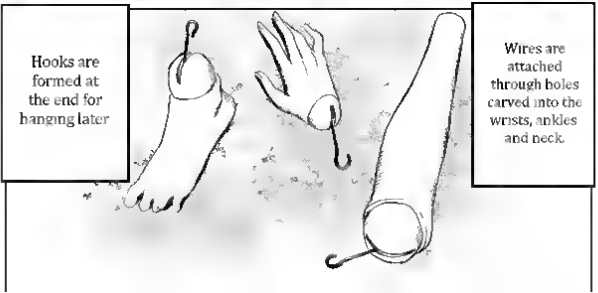
Finger joints are held in place by reinforcing the clay with wires.


Maintaining the ratio between the ball itself and the junctions is critical in accurately creating the joint's functional range of motion.
Afterwards, each point of articulation is bored out to fit the ball joint.
Preparation for moving joints starts by severing the limbs at key points.


7月
13
Once the sockets have been adequately shaped, the artificial eyeballs are set in place from the skull's interior to maximize their realistic appearance

7月
14
7月
15
WILL I SURVIVE 10 MORE DAYS STRETCHING 3000 YEN?
CAN'T EVEN AFFORD THE BATH HOUSE~
DAMN, I BLEW MY BUDGET ON DOLL SUPPLIES

7月
16
7月
17
PRAYING TO FIND EVEN 100 YEN ON THE GROUND TODAY...


Hooks are formed at the end for hanging later
Wires are attached through holes carved into the wrists, ankles and neck.

ガガガガガガガガガガ
SSSSS
GOD, THE COMPRESSOR ON THIS JUNKER'S SO OLD AND LOUD IT'S GIVING ME A HEADACHE~
Airbrushes are preferred to evenly apply an undercoating to the parts individually
Particularly grotesque
Tying and mounting the parts to dry is...
IT'S HOPELESS~
LISTINGS FOR 70,000 YEN ARE WAY TOO CRAMPED FOR DOLL MAKING
PLUS I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE SPARE CASH FOR THE SECURITY DEPOSIT OR KEY DEPOSIT...
MOVING INTO A PLACE WITH A BATH IS TOP PRIORITY!!
I'VE HAD IT!
DAMP-CLOTH BATHS AM I FROM THE EDO PERIOD!?

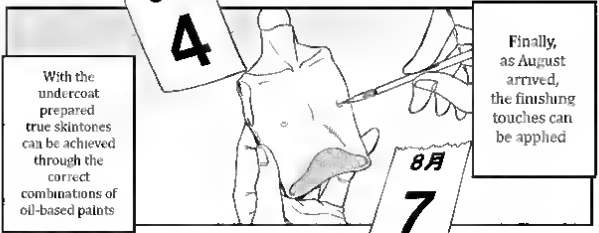
MIYA-KATA?

I'M GROSS, DON'T LOOK AT ME RIGHT NOW!!
A-AND I HAVEN'T BATHED!
MY HOME IS COVERED IN FILTH!
WHOA... ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?
禁止
Running on approximately two hours sleep

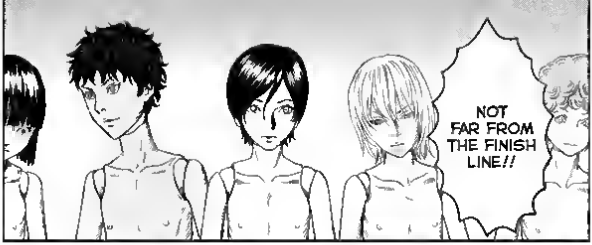
EH?
SINCE YOU'RE PROBABLY HUNGRY, IT'S ALL YOURS
TODAY'S YOUR LUCKY DAY! I ACCIDENTALLY BOUGHT A SECOND SANDWICH

I COULDN'T RESIST THE 30 YEN PER STALK PRICE TAG—
NO WAY HE DIDN'T NOTICE THIS PALTRY "CELERY SALAD" LUNCH!!
UWAA-AHHH~ I'VE BEEN EXPOSED!!

munch munch munch
OH, I'M SO GRATE-FUL~
WHATEVER! THANK YOUUUU~


8月 4
With the undercoat prepared true skintones can be achieved through the correct combinations of oil-based paints
8月 7
Finally, as August arrived, the finishing touches can be applied

8月 10
OH MAN, OCHI MUSHA STYLE.
Adhesives are used to fix hair in a fashion so that it may be groomed or styled as needed.
Ultra fine tipped brushes allow eyebrow styling and minute creases in the lips to become prominent.


NOT FAR FROM THE FINISH LINE!!

IT SOME-HOW FEELS LIKE OUR EYES ARE LOCKED...

SHUDDER

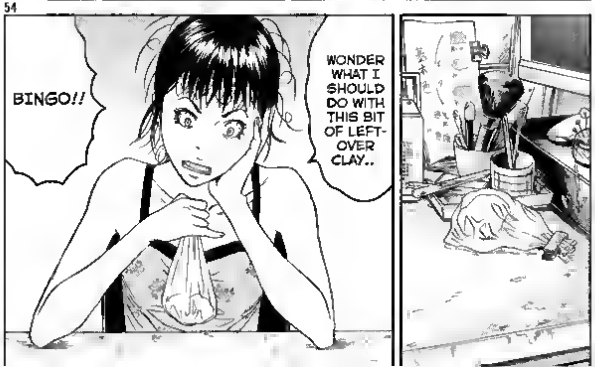
HE'S BRIMMING WITH LIFE..
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE THEY'RE MY HANDIWORK AT ALL...

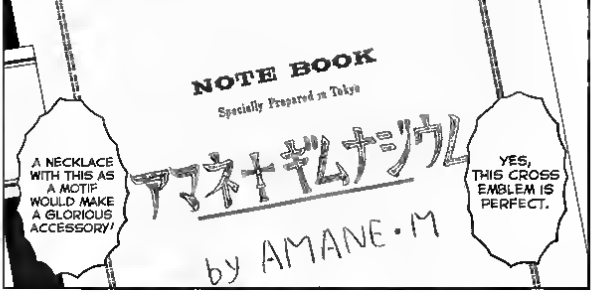
ONLY THREE DAYS LEFT!
CHILL OUT, AMANE! NOT THE TIME TO FALL FOR THE WILY CHARMS OF YOUR DOLLS!

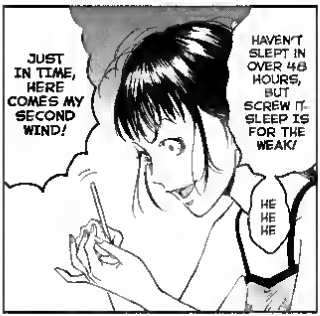
The climactic sprint to complete the student uniforms and footwear

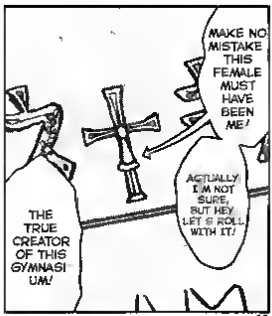
CONGRAT-
ULATIONS,
AMANE!!
HELL
YEAH,
THAT'S A
WRAP!!

WHEW-
WWW~


BINGO!!
WONDER
WHAT I
SHOULD
DO WITH
THIS BIT
OF LEFT-
OVER
CLAY..


NOTE BOOK
Specially Prepared in Tokyo
アマネ＋ギムナジウム
by AMANE・M
A NECKLACE WITH THIS AS A MOTIF WOULD MAKE A GLORIOUS ACCESSORY!
YES, THIS CROSS EMBLEM IS PERFECT.

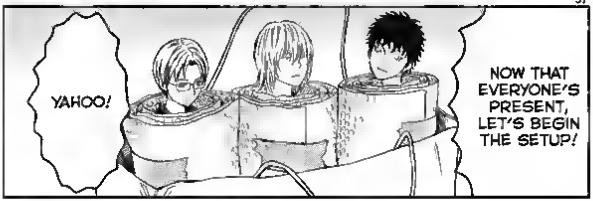

JUST IN TIME, HERE COMES MY SECOND WIND!
HAVEN'T SLEPT IN OVER 48 HOURS, BUT SCREW IT- SLEEP IS FOR THE WEAK!
HE HE HE


MAKE NO MISTAKE THIS FEMALE MUST HAVE BEEN ME!
ACTUALLY I'M NOT SURE, BUT HEY LET'S ROLL WITH IT!
THE TRUE CREATOR OF THIS GYMNASIUM!

HERE I PROCLAIM MYSELF GOD OF THE NEW WORLD!!
WAHA HAHAHA
GOD OF THESE SEVEN BOYS!
YES, I AM GOD HERSELF!
OMNI- POTENCE FLOWS THROUGH ME!!

WE WERE STARTING TO GET SCARED, YOU'RE SO LATE.
MIYA-KATA?
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I MADE IT HERE.
HAHH
The next day
(sigh)
ヴァギラ画廊
Vagila Gallery
(sigh)
oddly
SORRY 'BOUT THAT~
BLAME THIS NECKLACE. BECAUSE OF THIS THING, I DIDN'T WAKE UP ON TIME~.
56
BUT I'M ALREADY FEELING ANXIOUS..
MAN, IT'S NOT EVEN THE EXHIBIT YET.

CHALK IT UP TO THE MISFORTUNATE BURDEN OF ASCENSION TO GODHOOD...
YOU AREN'T LOOKING SO HOT.
MIYAKATA...


YAHOO!
NOW THAT EVERYONE'S PRESENT, LET'S BEGIN THE SETUP!

At long last the opening day of the exhibition arrived
Fortunately the ladies from Vagilla Gallery came through and supplied miniature wooden desks and seats.
Mourning Lamentations
Miyakata Amane
Trevor Black
Nana Asuna
AAAAAA AAAAAH~ SO DARN CUTE!
I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH~

AMANE, THE WHOLE CLASS IS FABULOUSLY ADORABLE~
GOSH~

S-SASAI!?
HWA...!?
SIMPLY INCREDIBLE!
WHOAAAA!

OH!
SORRY, BUT I HONESTLY NEVER EXPECTED YOU'D ACTUALLY COME.
SORRY IT'S HUGE
REMEMBER? I PROMISED TO SHOW UP!
HERE! CONGRATS ARE IN ORDER

EVEN I CAN TELL YOU'RE SUPER TALENTED
VERY INTRIGATE
HEY, I RECOGNIZE THESE GUYS FROM YOUR NOTE BOOK
NOW, HOW ABOUT YOU INTRODUCE ME TO YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS?

S-SASAI, PLEASE BE HONEST.
NOBODY FROM WORK KNOWS, RIGHT...?
OF COURSE NOT...
EVERYBODY AT WORK WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO COMPREHEND THE ARTISTIC VALUE OF YOUR PASSION. ONE GLANCE AND THEY'D START THINKING YOU'VE BEEN RAISED BY ALIENS OR SOMETHING

ALIENS...
SURE, THEY USED TO SAY THAT BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. BUT I'M 27 NOW...
ONCE AN ALIEN, ALWAYS AN ALIEN...
OOPS.
I WASN'T TRYING TO HURT YOUR FEELINGS

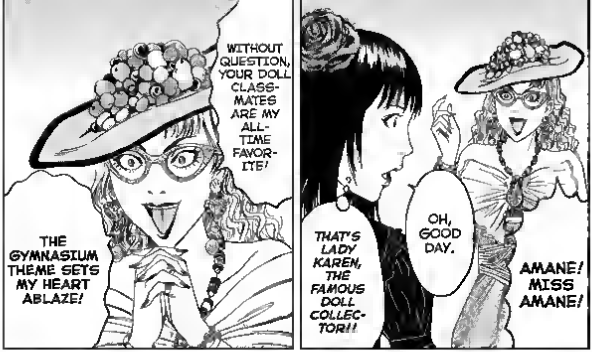
FORGET ABOUT THEM, I ADORE YOUR WONDERFUL ART!
SERIOUSLY, THEY'RE JUST LIKE REAL KIDS.

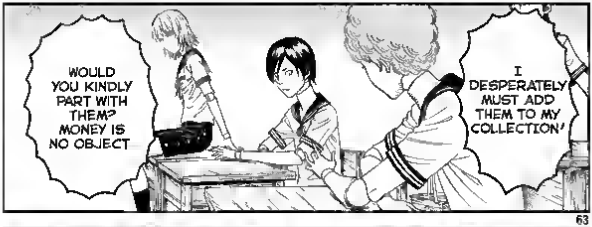
Indeed.
To me they are genuine living, breathing children!

EH?
YOU REALLY LOOK LOVELY TODAY
BY THE WAY, MIYAKATA

IT'S CLEARLY BETTER TO LOOK AT SOMETHING NICER
SURELY YOU'RE MISTAKEN! HOW COULD YOU IGNORE MY IMPOVERISHED FACE?

YOU REALLY DO PIQUE MY INTEREST!
HAHA!


WITHOUT QUESTION, YOUR DOLL CLASS-MATES ARE MY ALL-TIME FAVOR-ITE!
THE GYMNASIUM THEME SETS MY HEART ABLAZE!
THAT'S LADY KAREN, THE FAMOUS DOLL COLLEC-TOR!!
OH, GOOD DAY.
AMANE! MISS AMANE!


WOULD YOU KINDLY PART WITH THEM? MONEY IS NO OBJECT
I DESPERATELY MUST ADD THEM TO MY COLLECTION!

THESE BOYS ARE TOO PRECIOUS TO SELL...
P-PLEASE FORGIVE ME, BUT. .

ANOTHER DOLL EXHIBITION UNDER THE BELT...
SURE, IT'S OVER AND DONE WITH
YET...
Two weeks later...

I'M FRIGGIN' PISSED AT MYSELF FOR REFUSING THAT OFFER!!
WAY TO FLUSH AWAY A GOLDEN OPPOR TUNITY

AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE SURPRISED IF ANY GALLERY OUT THERE WELCOMES ME...
SURE FELT THE NASTY LOOKS THE GALLERY STAFF GAVE ME AFTER...
GOODBYE, 1,050,000 YEN!
300,000 YEN PER DOLL TIMES SEVEN EQUALS 2,100,000 YEN EXHIBITION SALES RESULT IN 50% COMMISSION GOING TO THE MAKER

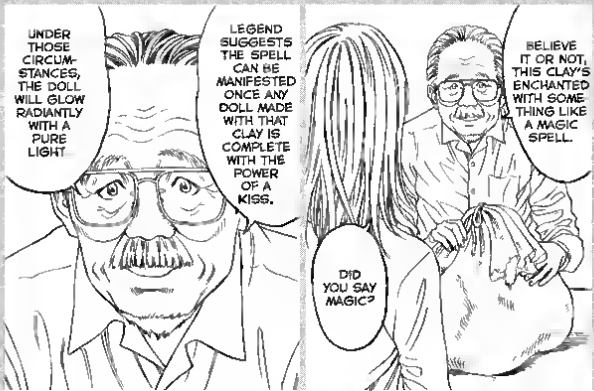
STILL..
THEY'RE IMPOSSIBLY CUTE!!

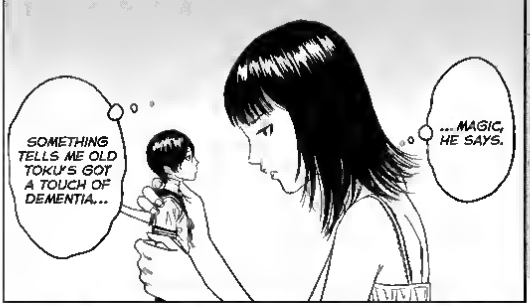
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE MY SPECIAL BOYS...

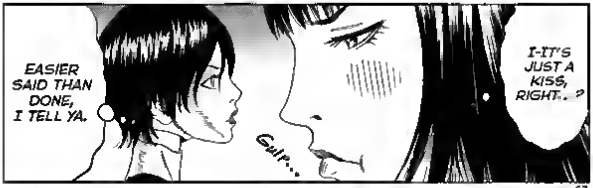
EACH OF YOU HAS PART OF ME INSIDE OF YOU.

RIGHT?
I'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO SELL YOU GUYS...

Now, allow me to pass on the secret of this aged clay.

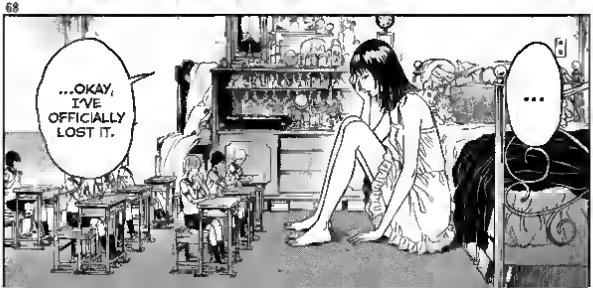

UNDER THOSE CIRCUM-STANCES, THE DOLL WILL GLOW RADIANTLY WITH A PURE LIGHT.
LEGEND SUGGESTS THE SPELL CAN BE MANIFESTED ONCE ANY DOLL MADE WITH THAT CLAY IS COMPLETE WITH THE POWER OF A KISS.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, THIS CLAY'S ENCHANTED WITH SOME-THING LIKE A MAGIC SPELL.
DID YOU SAY MAGIC?


SOMETHING TELLS ME OLD TOKU'S GOT A TOUCH OF DEMENTIA...
...MAGIC, HE SAYS.


EASIER SAID THAN DONE, I TELL YA.
Gulp...
I-IT'S JUST A KISS, RIGHT..?

NOW, JOHANN...
Smooch~
FELIX, YOU'LL BE MY FIRST...
CHU

Schmeez
THEO.
I'M GETTING ALL HOT AND BOTHERED~
AAAAHHHH!
Kissu
OTTO.
Mmcha~
ZEPP.
Smups
ELMER.
C-Luu~
DAMIAN


...OKAY, I'VE OFFICIALLY LOST IT.
...

TOKU WAS JUST PULLING MY LEG!!
FFSSSH
FFSSSH
OH, NOW I GET IT.
SHOULD HIT THE HAY, ANYWAYS.
GOTTA WORK TOMOR-ROW...

DID I LEAVE A LIGHT ON?
HUH?

SNEAK
THIS IS FREAKING ME OUT—
H-HELLO—?
W-HAT'S GOING ON—?

HOW...
HOW ARE THEY STANDING!?

ギ CREAK...
ギ CREAK...
ギ CREAK...

ギ…
ギギ…
CREEEEAAAAK
ギギ…
CREEEEAAAAK
ギ…
ギ…
CRRRREEEAAAK
ギ…

The doors to her gymnasium have burst wide open!!!

Translator's Notes

Page 4

- Vagilla Gallery is based on a real location called Vanilla Gallery that has previously hosted exhibitions of Furuya Usamaru's illustrations and paintings
- Freaks Pierrot is likely a nod to fellow Vagilla Gallery artist Freaks Circus

Page 6

- Hinomaru bento is a Japanese staple food consisting of nothing but white rice with a dried red pickled plum on top. The name hinomaru comes from the fact that the red plum on top of the white rice resembles the Japanese flag, also called the hinomaru which itself is a representation of the sun.)

Page 13

- Tomioka Hachiman shrine is the largest shrine in Japan dedicated to the Shinto tutelary god of warriors and divine protector of Japan. Hachiman. Hachiman's name refers to the eight divine banners that signalled the birth of Emperor Oujin.

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- A gymnasium is a traditional part of the German educational system. The closest equivalents are British grammar schools or American prep schools. Generally, Gymnasium students spend 8-9 years preparing for university. Students are usually admitted at the ages of 10 or 13 following 4-6 years of primary education.
- The Fabulous Year 24 Group, otherwise known as the Forty-Niners, were a group of ten different shoujo manga artists all born in the 24th Year of the Showa Era (1949). Prior to their work, shoujo manga had little variation and rarely broke new boundaries in genre or content. During their prime, shoujo manga finally made the jump from primarily monthly to

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- Styrene is an oil isolated from American sweetgum tree resin. It can also be synthesized from various chemical compounds. When exposed to light or heat, it will slowly harden into a rubbery substance called polystyrene. Don't ever get it in your eyes or you will likely be blinded. Styrene has also been investigated heavily as a potential carcinogenic agent.
- A weird Japanese real estate law. Key deposits are one time payments to the landlord generally equivalent to 1-3 months worth of rent prior to being accepted as a tenant. This money is never returned to the tenant after their lease expires or is cancelled. Some paranoid or greedy landlords can legally charge 6 or more months worth of rent as the key deposit. Certain regions of Japan will even have a stipulation in the tenant agreement that the equivalent of the key deposit is charged again upon lease/contract renewal. Thankfully, in recent years, landlords and real estate agencies have begun offering key deposit free rental properties.

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- An Ochimusha was an extremely low class of Japanese citizen that was mainly present during the Sengoku period of Japanese history. Dishonorable samurai that fled the battlefield rather than face execution or commit seppuku would have the crown of their head shaved while the remainder is left long and loose as a marker of their low status. Additionally the signature chonmage topknot may remain intact in a diminished form. Other methods of descending into the status of an Ochimusha include samurai and aristocrats that were uprooted and relieved by civilian rioting. Exiled criminals of Japan were sometimes treated as Ochimusha.

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- Trevor Black is a clear nod to paraphilia artist Trevor Brown.

On Ball Jointed Dolls

The dolls featured in Amane†Gymasium are one of a kind creations inspired by 19th century European bisque dolls, traditional Japanese dolls, and the modern Japanese art doll movement. The current generation of Japanese doll artists feature an erotic-grotesque aesthetic, with many creations being in various states of undress and in a languid, sensual repose. In case you were wondering, ball jointed dolls are usually anatomically correct. Artists hold gallery shows and produce photobooks of their work. Prominent artists include Amano Katan, Etsuko Miura, Mori Kaoru, Ayumi, Mayuka, Shimizu Mari, and Yotsuya Shimon.

Amane's creations are a bit of an oddity in the art doll world as the majority are female. Male dolls are much more common in the commercial BJD market and it is likely the inspiration for Amane†Gymnasium was derived from there as well.

Commercially available ball jointed dolls combine the aesthetics of art dolls with the customization of a garage kit. First created by the figure/garage kit company Volks in 1999, commercial BJDs were meant to draw women into the hobby market. Unlike the clay art dolls featured in Amane, commercial BJDS are cast from resin. The dolls can be customized in a variety of ways, including repainting the faces, changing or repositioning the eyes, and changing their wigs and clothing. More serious customizers have been known to paint their own dolls or make their own wigs, eyes, or clothing.

Mr. Furuya himself owns (or has owned) at least one ball jointed doll, a Volks SD17 Reisner. While we previously thought he only had it for art reference, the doll can be seen in a non-standard wig. Additionally, Mr. Furuya has clearly done his research into the ball jointed and art doll worlds, as Amane is a fairly accurate representation of a doll aficionado.